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CHARACTERISTICS OF STOCKADE PRISONERS--  
SUMMARY OF MAJOR FINDINGS

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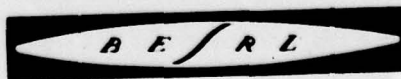
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Army Project Number  
20062106A722

Optimum Mental Distribution d-12

Research Study 69-3

CHARACTERISTICS OF STOCKADE PRISONERS--  
SUMMARY OF MAJOR FINDINGS

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March 1969

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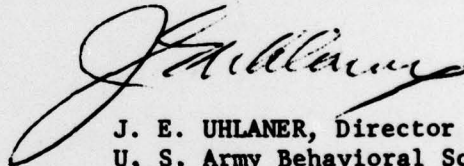
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**FOREWORD**

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With every change in standards of acceptability for Army service, questions arise concerning the impact of introducing various levels of ability in the enlisted personnel system. The BESRL Work Unit, "Optimum Distribution of Individual Abilities for Unit Effectiveness," seeks to determine what balance of personnel of various ability levels is essential to unit effectiveness. To this end, objective measures of the performance of individuals and units are needed to enable the evaluation of varying mixes of ability levels within a unit. Special attention is directed to disciplinary problems which have been found to be more frequent among men of low mental ability. The present publication summarizes results of a study of Army stockade input as related to enlisted screening standards. The study was responsive to interest expressed by the Army Chief of Staff and the Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel. The entire research effort is conducted under Army RDT&E Project No. 2Q062106A722, "Selection and Behavioral Evaluation," 1969 Work Program.



J. E. UHLANER, Director  
U. S. Army Behavioral Science  
Research Laboratory

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## CHARACTERISTICS OF STOCKADE PRISONERS--SUMMARY OF MAJOR FINDINGS

### BRIEF

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#### Requirement:

To determine the likelihood of Army stockade confinement in relation to personal characteristics considered in establishing enlistment and induction standards.

#### Procedure:

Prisoners under approved sentence to stockade confinement as reported by all stockades were compared with an independent sample from the Enlisted Master Tape Record provided on a quarterly basis for the calendar year 1967. Analysis was in terms of AFQT score, civilian educational level, age at entry into service, race, and time on active duty. Enlistees and inductees were studied separately, since their base rates were markedly different. Since careerists showed much smaller base rates, analysis was focused on first-term soldiers.

#### Findings:

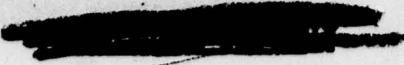
Younger men (17- and 18-year-olds) and high school dropouts were found twice as often among prisoners as among first-term soldiers in the EMTR sample. Similar relationships, though less marked, were found for men in AFQT category IV, Negroes, and RA volunteers.

#### Utilization of Findings:

Low screening standards on age, education, and AFQT score have been associated with increased stockade accessions. The findings are an aid in identifying the groups of first-term enlisted men more likely than other groups to present serious disciplinary problems.

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## CHARACTERISTICS OF STOCKADE PRISONERS--SUMMARY OF MAJOR FINDINGS

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### BACKGROUND

In response to interest of the Army Chief of Staff, the U. S. Army Behavioral Science Research Laboratory (BESRL) worked with the Office of the Provost Marshal General to develop a plan for a study of the relation of enlisted screening standards to stockade input. Data were collected from all Army stockades for a year and a half. These data were analyzed by BESRL and reported to the Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel on a quarterly basis for one year. Reporting was stopped when it became clear that the main findings had stabilized. The present report covers the main findings for the full year.

### PROCEDURE

#### STOCKADE SAMPLE

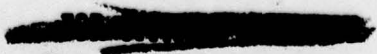
An enlisted man can arrive at a stockade in several ways. He can be a transient prisoner awaiting shipment to another stockade, in pre-trial confinement, in post-trial confinement due to sentencing, confined because his sentence to confinement was suspended and then the suspension was vacated, or in confinement because of a parole violation. In order to have a clear definition of serious cases, stockade reports were limited to prisoners who had been sentenced to post-trial confinement and whose sentence had been upheld by the first reviewing authority.

#### CONTROL SAMPLE

The stockade cases could not be interpreted without reference to the Army enlisted population from which they came. For comparison, a random sampling of the Enlisted Master Tape Record was taken at the middle of each calendar quarter corresponding to the quarterly stockade reports. This control sample is stable enough, because of its size, to permit meaningful comparisons.

#### VARIABLES

Previous research at BESRL has investigated relationships between various personal characteristics and disciplinary record for first term enlisted men. AFQT score, educational level, and age were shown to be related to disciplinary record. One of the findings of prior research



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was that low ability men are more likely to be court-martialed during their term of service and are more likely to receive an other-than-honorable discharge. This finding suggests that lower ability men are more likely to be stockade accessions than are men of higher ability.

Hence, variables for study were selected to include those background factors believed to have some relationship to disciplinary record:

Component (voluntary enlistee, inductee, etc.)

Armed Forces Qualification Test (AFQT) score

Civilian Education Level

Race

Age

Time on Active Duty

#### ANALYSIS

Experience gained in the analysis of the data for the first quarter led to a modification of the sample used for analysis. Components other than regular Army voluntary enlistees (RA) and inductees (US) were dropped from the analysis because of their low frequency of occurrence in the data. Races other than Caucasian and Negro were dropped for the same reason. The first report clearly indicated that the problem lies with the individual serving his first term of duty (rates for RA first termers were five times as great as those for RA careerists). Accordingly, the present report covers first termers only, that is, enlistees having three years or less of service and inductees having two years or less of service.

The analysis had to take into account the difficulty of gathering complete information on all stockade accessions. Some stockades were not able to report on all prisoners who met the prescribed conditions. In addition, data on specific variables were not available for a number of stockade and control sample cases. However, there is no indication that the missing data introduced bias in the relative findings. Data returns were large enough that the relative composition of stockade and control samples could be determined with confidence. Although the data do not yield firm absolute rates, they do provide firm relative rates.

For the stockade cases and control sample separately, percentages were computed from the frequency distribution of each major variable. The composition of the stockade sample and the control sample can be seen directly by comparing percentages (Table 1). The ratio provides an index to differences in representation. The stockade-to-control ratio was computed very simply by dividing the percentage in any given interval in the



stockade sample by the percentage in that interval in the control sample. A ratio of 1.0 means perfectly random representation of the first term enlisted sample within the stockade cases. Ratios greater than 1.0 mean proportional over-representation, and ratios smaller than 1.0 mean proportional under-representation in the stockade cases. The weighted average stockade-to-control ratio for any given variable is equal to 1.0, since representation must average out across intervals. These ratios may be used as factors in computing absolute or relative numbers if a firm base rate is available.

### RESULTS

Since volunteers and draftees are subject to somewhat different psychological pressures, the analysis began with a breakdown into components of service (Table 1). It is evident that RA volunteers amounted to 64% of the stockade sample, but to only 46% of the control sample. The stockade-to-control ratio for RA is 1.4, which means that volunteers are over-represented in the stockade cases. The errors of sampling were very small; we may therefore say that volunteers were found about one and a half times as often among prisoners under approved sentences as among first tour soldiers. Inductees were under-represented, showing a ratio of 0.7.

Table 1

#### COMPONENT REPRESENTATION IN STOCKADE CASES AND CONTROL SAMPLE

Component	Stockade Cases %	Control Sample %	Ratio
RA	64	46	1.4
US	36	54	0.7
N	10,567	37,568	



Tables 2 and 3 show separate analyses by component to see if time in service was related to stockade accession. Here the stockade-to-control ratios show some variation, but the differences are not very great. The likelihood of becoming a stockade prisoner is roughly the same in each year of service. This finding indicates that the stockade problem is not concentrated in the first year of service.

Table 2

PERCENTAGES OF STOCKADE CASES AND CONTROL SAMPLE  
BY YEAR OF SERVICE--ENLISTEES

Year of Service	Stockade Cases %	Control Sample %	Ratio
1st	41	47	0.9
2d	36	34	1.1
3d	23	19	1.2
N	6,770	17,118	

Table 3

PERCENTAGES OF STOCKADE CASES AND CONTROL SAMPLE  
BY YEAR OF SERVICE--INDUCTEES

Year of Service	Stockade Cases %	Control Sample %	Ratio
1st	62	55	1.1
2d	38	45	0.8
N	3,797	20,450	

Tables 4 and 5 show that very young soldiers just meeting the minimum age were highly over-represented in the stockade cases. Volunteers of 17 were 9% of first tour volunteers, but they were 35% of first tour volunteers in the stockades. The youngest draftees were 1% of all draftees, but they were 6% of draftees in the stockades.

Table 4

PERCENTAGES OF STOCKADE CASES AND CONTROL SAMPLE  
BY AGE AT ENTRY ON DUTY--ENLISTEES

Age	Stockade Cases %	Control Sample %	Ratio
17	35	9	3.9
18	27	20	1.4
19	18	28	.6
20	8	20	.4
21	5	9	.6
22	3	6	.5
23+	4	8	.5
N	6,687	16,453	

Table 5

PERCENTAGES OF STOCKADE CASES AND CONTROL SAMPLE  
BY AGE AT ENTRY ON DUTY--INDUCTEES

Age	Stockade Cases %	Control Sample %	Ratio
18	6	1	6.0
19	43	27	1.6
20	23	31	.7
21	12	15	.8
22	7	9	.8
23+	9	17	.5
N	3,760	19,789	



Tables 6 and 7 show that men who did not complete high school were more likely to become prisoners among both volunteers and inductees. Overall, high school dropouts amount roughly to one-third of first tour strength, but they account for 70 to 75% of stockade accessions among first tour soldiers.

Table 6

PERCENTAGES OF STOCKADE CASES AND CONTROL SAMPLE  
BY YEARS OF EDUCATION--ENLISTEES

Years of Education	Stockade Cases %	Control Sample %	Ratio
0 - 11	75	37	2.0
12	23	45	.5
13 - 15	2	13	.2
16+	0	5	.0
N	6,733	11,878	

Table 7

PERCENTAGES OF STOCKADE CASES AND CONTROL SAMPLE  
BY YEARS OF EDUCATION--INDUCTEES

Years of Education	Stockade Cases %	Control Sample %	Ratio
0 - 11	70	30	2.3
12	26	50	.5
13 - 15	4	16	.2
16+	0	4	.0
N	3,770	13,413	

Tables 8 and 9 show that AFQT Category IV men were found about one and one-half times as often in the stockade cases as in the control sample.

Table 8

PERCENTAGES OF STOCKADE CASES AND CONTROL SAMPLE  
BY AFQT CATEGORY--ENLISTEES

AFQT Category	Stockade Cases %	Control Sample %	Ratio
IV	31	20	1.6
III	56	43	1.3
II	12	31	.4
I	1	6	.2
N	6,086	15,268	

Table 9

PERCENTAGES OF STOCKADE CASES AND CONTROL SAMPLE  
BY AFQT CATEGORY--INDUCTEES

AFQT Category	Stockade Cases %	Control Sample %	Ratio
IV	45	25	1.8
III	42	42	1.0
II	12	28	.4
I	1	5	.2
N	3,431	19,001	



Tables 10 and 11 show that Negroes were normally represented among first tour soldiers in both groups (10-11%), but they were found among prisoners twice as often. Further analysis is needed to see whether other variables (education, AFQT score, age) modify this ratio.

Table 10

PERCENTAGES OF STOCKADE CASES AND CONTROL SAMPLE  
BY NEGRO VS WHITE--ENLISTEES

Race	Stockade Cases %	Control Sample %	Ratio
Negro	21	11	1.9
White	79	89	.9
N	6,770	17,118	

Table 11

PERCENTAGES OF STOCKADE CASES AND CONTROL SAMPLE  
BY NEGRO VS WHITE--INDUCTEES

Race	Stockade Cases %	Control Sample %	Ratio
Negro	20	10	2.0
White	80	90	.9
N	3,797	20,450	

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SUMMARY

↓ This study focused on relative rates for stockade accessions among various groups of first-term Army enlisted men. The overall data, based on approximately 10,000 stockade cases and 35,000 control sample cases, show:

↓ 1. Very young soldiers, just meeting minimum age standards, were found about two and a half times (2.6) as often in the stockade cases as in the control sample. The 17- and 18-year olds were 14% of first tour Army strength, but they amounted to 36% of prisoners under approved sentences.

↓ 2. High school dropouts were found about twice (2.2) as often in the stockade cases as in the control sample. Men with less than 12 years of education were 33% of first tour Army strength, but they amounted to 73% of prisoners under approved sentences.

↓ 3. Men in the lowest acceptable mental category were found about one and a half times (1.6) as often in the stockade cases as in the control sample. Men in Armed Forces Qualification Test Category IV were 23% of first tour Army strength, but they amounted to 36% of prisoners under approved sentences.

↓ 4. Negroes were found about twice (2.0) as often in the stockade cases as in the control sample. Negroes were 10% of first tour Army strength, but they amounted to 20% of prisoners under approved sentences.

↓ 5. Regular Army volunteers were found about one and a half times (1.4) as often in the stockade cases as in the control sample. Volunteers were 46% of first tour Army strength, but they amounted to 64% of prisoners under approved sentences.